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November 12, 2001
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Dear Mayor, City Councilors and Board of Control

I am worried about the debate surrounding the smoking bylaw. This bylaw ensures that London restaurants will be 100% smoke free on January 1, 2002.

I am concerned about the negative health impact from both smoking and second hand smoke. Health professionals and researchers caution us that smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke are preventable causes of major illnesses and death. Both restaurant patrons and food service workers are entitled to healthy smoke free environments.

I support the intent of the smoking bylaw since it ensures that smoking is not permitted in any part of a restaurant not even an area within a restaurant that is designate as a bar area. I consider that an establishment is either smoke free or not smoke free? How can it be both?

I do not support the concept of nonbinding arbitration. This mediation would only open up the possible interpretation that smoking could be permitted in certain types of restaurant establishments. Perhaps the owner of the so-called hybrid restaurant-bar could take the option of declaring the establishment a bar and then could legally advertise that smoking is permitted since it is now a bar.

As a citizen of London, I support a council that takes a leadership role in developing policies that promote smoke-free environments and a council that has the courage to acknowledge clean air establishments.

I believe that the smoking bylaw that originated in 1995 and intended to phase out smoking in London restaurants in 2002 should be honoured.

Sincerely,

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